

U3A Mac and Ipad Users

Ipad For Beginners

a 5 Week Course

KEEPING YOUR DEVICES SAFE

PASSWORDS

According to the traditional advice — which is still good — a strong password is:

- **Has 12 Characters, Minimum:** You need to choose a password that's long enough. There's no minimum password length everyone agrees on, but you should generally go for passwords that are a minimum of 12 to 14 characters in length. A longer password would be even better.
- **Includes Numbers, Symbols, Capital Letters, and Lower-Case Letters:** Use a mix of different types of characters to make the password harder to crack.
- **Isn't a Dictionary Word or Combination of Dictionary Words:** Stay away from obvious dictionary words and combinations of dictionary words. Any word on its own is bad. Any combination of a few words, especially if they're obvious, is also bad. For example, "house" is a terrible password. "Red house" is also very bad.
- **Doesn't Rely on Obvious Substitutions:** Don't use common substitutions, either — for example, "H0use" isn't strong just because you've replaced an o with a 0. That's just obvious.

Try to mix it up — for example, "BigHouse\$123" fits many of the requirements here. It's 12 characters and includes upper-case letters, lower-case letters, a symbol, and some numbers. But it's fairly obvious — it's a dictionary phrase where each word is capitalized properly. There's only a single symbol, all the numbers are at the end, and they're in an easy order to guess.

Good a suggestion is to use a phrase that you use often and can remember.
eg See you later alligator. In a while crocodile
Then take the first letter from each word add some symbols and capitals.

Your end up with something like this

SylA.lawC.109

(note there are full stops after the A and C)

You can store your passwords on your device in notes, reminders or if that worries you purchase a little alphabet index book and store your passwords under the appropriate letter.

Eg Apple ID: under **A**

National Bank Online password under **N**